



To the respected and esteemed sister,

These are a few pieces of advice from an insolent soul, to someone who is perhaps far closer to Allah than myself. I hope you find it acceptable enough to read its entirety. Obviously, as an influencer and public figure, your actions, speech, posts, what you do and don't do have a lasting impact on your followers. Everything we choose to do with our platform will be questioned in the court of Allah. It would be unfortunate if certain things we were unaware of became the reason we earn Allah's anger on that day. So I was hoping to make you aware of the following:

1. Your posts become a source of validation for your followers, so be mindful of what you may unknowingly validate.

It may be that along with islamic posts and reminders, your regular content may include lifestyle posts, selfies, outfits, food, lip syncing to nasheeds, skincare and other things. I won't get into the islamic rulings regarding each one of these things, in order to not make this too long. But, some of your impressionable audience may see this as validation for themselves to post similar things. And Shaytaan will never leave things just at that. They might emulate what you are doing, but push the boundaries a little. Then a little more, then some more, till the point where you may indirectly influence a crowd or even a generation of girls to expose themselves in a way that violates the limits of Allah. To be clear, I am **not** saying that you are to blame for this. But this is a foreseeable reality, so we should try our best to minimize it and not amplify it.

I understand that self-censoring is not fun. But our platforms are not our properties, rather they are incredibly heavy burdens given to us by Allah as a test. If you bear it with

patience, it will become a source of happiness for you. And if not, then the opposite may be the case.

2. Know that the Hijab exists to uphold certain objectives.

May Allah have mercy on you and elevate your status in both lives. I ask you to forgive me in advance, as this point may be a little technical and terminology-heavy. In Islamic terminologies and in Arabic, certain words simply cannot exist without some necessary implications. For example, consider the words **Islam** (Submission) and **Muslim** (someone who submits).

A person cannot be a **Muslim** without having **Islam** (Submission). Similarly, you should know that wearing the **Hijab** necessitates **Ihtijab**, which means to prevent something from being seen. That is to say, a person who wears a headscarf but does not try to control how much she is seen by people, has not fulfilled the role of the **Hijab**. To be clear, I am not saying you can't be seen, but what I am saying is that Islam wants you to show yourself only as much as needed, and to avoid putting yourself in the eyes of the public unnecessarily.

I understand that this may be incredibly inconvenient or maybe you think it sounds “extreme”, but if you were to open any book on Islamic rulings, or even any arabic dictionary, and see the root words and derivatives of the word **Hijab**, you would see that it necessitates screening oneself from people.

3. Make learning Islam a regular part of your life, and hang out with people who have studied Islam.

Islamic knowledge, with its rules, language, terminology, and guidelines, is the only source of success in this life and the next. I understand that some of the subjects may be

incredibly dry and difficult, but the more you learn, the more you will be able to tell with confidence that what you are doing is right. And you will be able to look back at previous posts and see what errors or mistakes you may have unintentionally fallen into. If you were to look back on posts from years ago, and not see any issue, that may actually be a red flag and an indicator that there are still mistakes you haven't realized yet.

“And Shaytaan is like the wolf that hunts the lone sheep,” (Musnad Ahmad, 22107). So it's important to stay connected with women who have learned Islam, or have been learning for many years. Show them the different types of things you post, and see what they approve of. Aspire to emulate them both inwardly and outwardly.

In order to keep this as short as possible, I did not get into the details and evidences of each point. If you would like more details or if you have any questions, I am happy to provide further information.

Regards,

Akber